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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Trinidad and Tobago

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-fifth session from 2 to 13 May 2016. The review of Trinidad and Tobago was held at the 15th meeting on 10 May 2016. The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago was headed by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Eden Charles. At its 20th meeting, held on 13 May 2016, the Working Group adopted the report on Trinidad and Tobago.

2. On 12 January 2016, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Trinidad and Tobago: Georgia, Kenya and Qatar.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Trinidad and Tobago:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/25/TTO/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/25/TTO/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/25/TTO/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Norway, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Trinidad and Tobago through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The State indicated that the preparation of the national report had involved various stakeholders, including government ministries, other State agencies and representatives of civil society.

6. Measures that Trinidad and Tobago had implemented in fulfilling its human rights obligations included those aimed at protecting the rights of women and children, reducing poverty, improving the administration of justice and reducing the incidence of violent crime in Trinidad and Tobago. With regard to the continued increase in violent crime, given the country's vulnerability to drug trafficking and the illegal arms trade, the Government had taken steps to address the issue with the passage or enactment of various pieces of legislation, such as the Trafficking in Persons Act, 2011, the Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Act, 2010, and the Interception of Communications Act, 2010.

7. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago continued to improve the administration of justice in an effort to reduce the backlog of cases before the courts, specifically as it related to the length of time that a person may be detained before being brought before the courts. To address that issue, the Administration of Justice (Indictable Proceedings) Act, 2011, and the Indictable Offences (Committal Proceedings) Act, 2014, had been enacted.

8. The Police Complaints Authority of Trinidad and Tobago offered a safe, independent environment in which complaints could be lodged and investigated. That service was offered free of charge as an accessible mechanism for members of the public to submit complaints against police officers and with a view to curbing the use of unnecessary force by the police service in the conduct of their work.

9. The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service had also implemented the "Policing for People Initiative" to provide officers with the training required to improve the quality of policing. The aim was to change the culture of the police service with regard to its interaction with the public in order to form a closer alliance between the two, with the concomitant effect of greater cooperation in the fight against crime.

10. The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago indicated that the death penalty was only applicable for murder and treason and that before such a penalty was applied, due process — involving several safeguards — was carefully observed. Those safeguards included: the commutation of death sentences not carried out within five years; appeals before the Court of Appeal and to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, which was the final court of appeal; and the right of a prisoner to apply to the Advisory Committee on the Power of Pardon by virtue of section 89 of the Constitution.

11. Various policy mechanisms were also in place to protect and promote the rights of prisoners. The Penal Reform and Transformation Unit had been established in 2002 to review the penal system. Since then, further reforms had been implemented to achieve a more restorative system of justice. The Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service was guided by the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. Strategies had also been adopted to meet the needs of imprisoned women, to ensure that the mother-child relationship was maintained and to address women's health needs, especially those related to pregnancy, and revenue earning. Inmates were able to benefit from the rehabilitation system, which included religious or spiritual programmes for all faiths, psychological and medical services, cognitive/moral programmes on leadership, conflict resolution, drug rehabilitation, counselling, adolescent development, self-esteem and anger management, social/sporting programmes and educational programmes, ranging from academic to vocational, some of which were hosted by the prison service.

12. The Ministry of National Security had embarked on the introduction and implementation of an offender management system. The system sought to establish a seamless process for offenders, from the point of arrest through to the point of release. At its core was the delivery of a set of interventions, sequenced and tailored to respond to the risks relating to and the needs of the individual offender.

13. In the light of the recommendation, accepted during the previous cycle of the universal periodic review, that the State should improve living conditions in prisons and detention centres, the Prison Service Act, 1965, had been amended by the Miscellaneous Provisions (Prisons) Act, 2014, along with the Prison Rules, to provide for, among other things, the removal of an Inspector of Prisons, the creation of an Inspectorate of Prisons and the establishment of an Appeal Tribunal for cases involving disciplinary action against prisoners. The Inspectorate was charged with the function of inspecting and reporting on conditions in prisons and industrial institutions and following up on the treatment of prisoners, prisoner complaints and programmes, facilities, services and opportunities available to promote the rehabilitation of prisoners and young offenders.

14. Trinidad and Tobago had sought to implement the recommendation it had accepted during the first cycle of the universal periodic review to reduce the case backlog and address the inefficiencies in the judicial system that contributed to lengthy pretrial detentions and exacerbated difficult prison conditions. In September 2015, the Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago had announced the approval of criminal case management rules

that would facilitate the early disclosure and disposal of preliminary issues, impose stricter time frames and impose a positive obligation on all parties, including judicial officers, to assist in processing cases in accordance with the overriding objective of dealing with cases justly and expeditiously.

15. In order to reduce poverty, especially that affecting women, the Office of the Prime Minister had, together with the Minister of State for gender affairs, provided financial assistance for more than a decade, through the "Women in harmony" programme, to female heads of households who were single parents with few or no skills and either a low or no income.

16. Another initiative geared towards supporting women with specific needs was the "Non-traditional skills training programme for women". It was designed to provide specialized, technical/vocational education and training to low-income women. The programme was aimed at increasing economic productivity among unskilled, unemployed women between the ages of 18-50 years. Since 2001, over 3,000 women had been trained under the programme.

17. Trinidad and Tobago had also paid attention to the needs of persons with disabilities. A disability affairs unit within the Ministry Social Development and Family Services and a national coordinating committee on disability had been established. Additionally, the Government was currently considering a draft national policy on persons with disabilities and a draft disabilities bill. Broad programmes had also been developed to ensure the safety and independence of the differently-abled. The Government provided financial assistance to purchase aids and assistance devices, and the Public Transport Service Corporation provided a dial-a-ride service to transport differently-abled persons to work, school, Government offices and the supermarket.

18. Efforts had been made by the Ministry of Labour and Small Enterprise Development to promote and encourage the integration of persons with disabilities into the labour market in both the public and private sectors.

19. The efforts undertaken by Trinidad and Tobago to safeguard the rights of persons with disabilities had been strengthened by the ratification in 2015 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. An interministerial committee had been established to implement the articles of the Convention.

20. In July 2015, the National Enrichment Centre for Persons with Disabilities formerly known as the National Development Centre for Persons with Disabilities had been commissioned to enhance the quality of life of persons with disabilities. The Centre was to be responsible for providing rehabilitation services, opportunities for vocational training and employment, independent life skills programmes, activities focusing on social interaction and therapeutic services for persons with disabilities.

21. The right of children with disabilities to access education had been recognized and was supported by the Special Education Unit of the Student Support Services Division of the Ministry of Education.

22. Trinidad and Tobago had received various recommendations during its initial periodic review concerning the full implementation of the Children's Authority and the proclamation of the Children Act, 2012. On 18 May 2015, the Children Act, 2012, had been proclaimed, resulting in the immediate operationalization of the Children's Authority. The Children Act, 2012, along with other legislation and the Children's Authority, represented an overhaul of the former child protection system. It had repealed and replaced the previous Children Act, adopted in 1925. The new legislation was wide-ranging in its scope and dealt with issues including sexual conduct against children, cruelty, juvenile justice, corporal punishment, compulsory school age, the use of evidence and procedures in criminal

proceedings involving children, children's attorneys and the employment of children. The Children's Authority, which had been established by the Children's Authority Act, 2000, served as the hub of the new national child protection system, and performed several key functions geared towards safeguarding and improving the lives of children in Trinidad and Tobago. The Children's Authority received and investigated reports of the mistreatment of children and, in order to deliver the most effective service, had established a 24-hour helpline for reporting such offences anonymously. It had also established an emergency response team to investigate reports of the mistreatment of children, which operated on a 24-hour basis.

23. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago had devised a number of programmes and initiatives to promote and protect the rights of children. The Family and Children Division Bill, 2016, sought to grant jurisdiction over all matters relating to families and children to a specific division of the High Court.

24. Trinidad and Tobago was a State party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. National legislation also gave effect to the provisions of those treaties, for example through the International Child Abduction Act, 2008. A civil child abduction unit within the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs served a central authority in matters of parental abduction. Other measures included a child advocacy unit, which operated out of the Solicitors General's Department.

25. Further measures had included the establishment of a child protection unit within the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, which was staffed by specially trained officers. Its mandate was to investigate all matters pertaining to child abuse. Child protection units existed in more than half of the police geographical divisions.

26. Since its first universal periodic review, Trinidad and Tobago had passed the Children Act, 2012, which prohibited the use of corporal punishment in schools. The Act had also addressed issues relating to the sale of children, child pornography and child prostitution. Those measures were supported by the Trafficking in Persons Act, 2011, which also provided some protection for children from heinous crimes.

27. The protection of the rights of the women of Trinidad and Tobago was of fundamental importance to the Government. The Government had recognized that in Trinidad and Tobago, as in any society, women fell victim to domestic violence, sexual harassment and other forms of emotional and verbal abuse. In addition to specific legislation covering many of those offences, women were also protected under the Sexual Offences Act, 1986. Other legislation that protected women from abuse and discrimination included the Domestic Violence Act, 1999, the Trafficking in Persons Act, 2011, and the Equal Opportunity Act, 2000. In 2012, the Maternity Protection Act, 1998, had been amended by the Miscellaneous Provisions (Maternity Protection and the Masters and Servants Ordinance) Act, 2012. Those specific pieces of legislation supplemented the provisions of section 4 of the Constitution, which enshrined the fundamental rights and freedoms of all citizens.

28. Education had been at the forefront of the Government's investment in sustainable development. In 2015, Trinidad and Tobago had achieved universal early childhood care and education, which was coupled with its existing system of universal primary and universal secondary education and universal tertiary education up to the undergraduate level. In addition to those policy measures, important legislative changes had been introduced to promote the right to education. With the proclamation of the Children Act, 2012, the age range for compulsory schooling, previously 6 to 12 years, had been expanded to 5 to 16 years.

29. In September 2015, in order to build on the progress achieved under the Millennium Development Goals, Trinidad and Tobago had joined the rest of the international community in adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and had embarked on the implementation of that global development agenda in the context of the Government's national development plan, "Vision 2030".

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

30. During the interactive dialogue, 56 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue can be found in section II of the present report.

31. The Netherlands welcomed the ongoing parliamentary debate on equal rights and non-discrimination with regard to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community. Since discrimination based on sexual orientation remained prevalent, the Netherlands highlighted the need to improve the fulfilment of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

32. Nicaragua highlighted the reforms and improvements in the areas of children's rights, the rights of persons with disabilities and combating human trafficking, as well as efforts towards the restitution of women's rights. It commended the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the establishment of an interministerial committee to oversee its implementation. Nicaragua encouraged Trinidad and Tobago to pay particular attention to vulnerable groups.

33. Nigeria noted the broad consultations, involving national institutions and non-governmental organizations, carried out during the compilation of the report of Trinidad and Tobago. It highlighted the fact that the recommendations accepted during the previous universal periodic review had been implemented. Nigeria commended the Trafficking in Persons Act, which provided for the establishment of a counter-trafficking unit, and noted the review of the Administration of Justice Act and the establishment of a Juvenile Court.

34. Norway, noting the legislative reforms relating to violence against women, said that the high level of gender-based violence nevertheless remained a concern. Norway was also worried about the continued stigmatization of and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, as well as those living with HIV. It noted with concern that Trinidad and Tobago had failed to outlaw child marriage.

35. Pakistan noted that, despite resource constraints, Trinidad and Tobago had made efforts to implement the majority of the recommendations made during the first cycle of the universal periodic review. It commended the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and stressed that the Children Act, 2012, the child protection units, the National Health Card system and policies related to the elimination of discrimination against women would contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights.

36. Panama acknowledged the efforts made to combat corruption and recognized that it was a systemic problem hindering the full enjoyment of human rights. It highlighted achievements in the field of children's rights and the rights of persons with disabilities.

37. Paraguay welcomed the significant legislative progress made, but urged further action to eliminate discrimination against women, to empower women in decision-making processes and to eradicate violence against women. Paraguay was worried by the fact that, in certain cases, 12-year-old children could marry legally.

38. The Philippines acknowledged the enactment of the Trafficking in Persons Act in accordance with the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against

Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol), and the State's continuing cooperation with other States to combat trafficking in persons. It remained concerned about reports that the crime rate was increasing, and encouraged Trinidad and Tobago to continue to apply a human rights-based approach when implementing security reforms.

39. Portugal welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It highlighted that no executions had been carried out in Trinidad and Tobago since 1999.

40. The Republic of Korea noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the enactment of the Trafficking in Persons Act and the Children Act 2012, and the adoption of the national refugee policy. Those measures represented major progress towards ensuring protection for the most vulnerable groups.

41. The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago noted the comments and recommendations made by all the intervening States. It welcomed the comments and indicated that they would refer them to the authorities, and that they would seek to engage not only the Government but also civil society in establishing whether or not those comments and recommendations could be incorporated into the national human rights machinery.

42. On the issue of child marriage, the delegation explained that, in Trinidad and Tobago, child marriage was a critical issue and that amending existing legislation, which reflected traditional norms and values, required an extensive and inclusive consultation process. The issue of child marriage was currently the subject of lively debate at the national level and the recent amendment to the Children Act had increased the age up to which a person was still considered a child to 18 years, in compliance with international standards. Consultations would continue to ensure that there were no inconsistencies between increased age of majority and other practices that did not conform to that age limit.

43. In response to the questions posed in advance by the delegation of Norway, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago recognized that discrimination against any group was a scourge to be tackled. Thus, taking into consideration the culture and the diverse nature of society in Trinidad and Tobago, any changes to statutory law would require extensive nationwide consultations involving not only the affected groups, but society as a whole.

44. With regard to the establishment of a human rights institution in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), the delegation indicated that the Government would continue to consider the matter. More in-depth studies were being carried out and a holistic approach had been adopted to ascertain whether or not existing institutions, such as the Equal Opportunity Commission and the Office of the Ombudsman of Trinidad and Tobago, could be restructured and potentially converted into a national human rights institution.

45. In response to the questions submitted in advance by the delegation of Slovenia with regard to corporal punishment, the delegation referred to the extensive information provided in the opening statement and the prohibition of corporal punishment in schools.

46. Regarding the question posed by the United Kingdom on the three-tiered classification of murder and on matters relating to the abolishment of the death penalty, the Constitution (Amendment) (Capital Offences) Bill, 2011, was being debated and the issue of the abolishment of mandatory imposition of death penalty was under discussion. Trinidad and Tobago continued to address the issue of the death penalty and no executions had been carried out without observance of due process of law.

47. On the issue of the empowerment of women, the head of the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago mentioned the increasing number of women in Parliament and in the Senate, noting that the presiding officers of the two houses were women.

48. With regard to the question posed by the United Kingdom on the length of pretrial detention, two separate pieces of legislation currently applied. Although the Administration of Justice (Indictable Proceedings Act), 2011, had repealed the Indictable Offences (Preliminary Enquiry) Act of 1917, the latter continued to apply to proceedings instituted prior to the date when the Administration of Justice (Indictable Proceedings Act), 2011, had come into force. The delegation indicated that the Government would continue to monitor the situation and take into consideration the comments made.

49. Senegal welcomed the promulgation of the Trafficking in Persons Act, the operationalization of the Children's Authority, the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the presentation of reports to treaty bodies, especially to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

50. Sierra Leone noted the enactment of new legislation to improve the human rights situation. Given that there had been no executions carried out since 1999, Sierra Leone urged Trinidad and Tobago to impose a moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to abolishing it, and to consider incorporating that abolition into its constitutional review. Sierra Leone encouraged the State to strengthen efforts to end sexual assault and domestic violence.

51. Singapore welcomed the Trafficking in Persons Act and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It wished Trinidad and Tobago success in achieving the goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Singapore remained committed to sharing its development experience with Trinidad and Tobago and other small island developing States.

52. Slovenia congratulated the State's efforts to promote the rights of the elderly and its engagement with gender-responsive budgeting. It welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the submission of a report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, as both measures were a step towards implementing recommendations made by Slovenia (87.41 and 88.) during the first universal periodic review cycle. Recommendation 88.39 had been partially implemented, as the amended Children Act prohibited corporal punishment in all settings outside the home. Slovenia noted that the death penalty continued to be mandatory for murder and that non-coercive sexual activity between minors of the same sex could lead to life imprisonment.

53. South Africa welcomed the enactment of several laws to promote and protect the rights of women and girls, as well as continued progress in the field of social and human development.

54. Spain congratulated Trinidad and Tobago on the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Spain urged the State to sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. Trinidad and Tobago should continue to combat all forms of discrimination, particularly discrimination based on sexual orientation. Spain praised the State's efforts to combat sexual and gender-based violence.

55. Switzerland noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the introduction of a national policy on refugees. It remained concerned by the insufficient implementation of the recommendations made as part of the first universal periodic review cycle, and advised the State to develop a transparent and inclusive process for implementing universal periodic review recommendations from both cycles.

56. Turkey commended efforts to promote gender equality and encouraged the effective implementation of the draft national gender policy. It noted the establishment of a central

registry on domestic violence, welcomed the proclamation of a Children Act and observed ongoing efforts to reduce violent crime through the enactment of legislation.

57. Uganda commended the State's commitment to protecting women and children, reducing poverty and the incidence of violent crime and improving the welfare of those living with HIV/AIDS. However, it highlighted that continued efforts were necessary. Uganda praised the enactment of the Trafficking in Persons Act, and highlighted that improving the protection afforded to children against all forms of abuse remained a key concern.

58. The United Kingdom welcomed the ongoing review of the death penalty. It recognized the work undertaken to address discrimination against women and asked the State to take concrete steps to implement existing legislation on sexual harassment and violence against women, including by establishing specialized rape and sexual offences units at police stations.

59. The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago acknowledged the recommendation from a number of delegations that the State should consider ratifying pending human rights conventions. With regard to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the delegation stressed that although Trinidad and Tobago had not become a party to that Optional Protocol, the Children's Act nevertheless addressed the issue of the sale of children.

60. The United States of America commended efforts to assist persons with disabilities and provide greater safeguards for persons with HIV/AIDS. It noted efforts to improve aspects of the justice sector, but remained concerned about reports of police ill-treatment and poor prison conditions. The United States was also concerned about violence and discrimination against women and the lack of respect for the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

61. Uruguay noted with concern the increasing number of cases that could potentially carry the death penalty. It welcomed the establishment of a national policy to address issues relating to refugees and asylum seekers, as well as measures relating to women's rights. Uruguay was concerned about the increase in maternal mortality, particularly among adolescents, and encouraged Trinidad and Tobago to redouble its efforts to provide sex education and access to sexual and reproductive health services.

62. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela acknowledged the State's efforts to implement accepted universal periodic review recommendations, which had led to the creation of an effective mechanism for developing national human rights programmes. It welcomed the steps taken to ensure access to health, housing, food and education. The delegation highlighted the implementation of the National Social Development Programme, the enactment of the Children Act, 2012, and the National Strategic Plan for Child Development 2012-2016 and welcomed public policies aimed at strengthening the gender dimension.

63. Algeria noted the promulgation of several legislative texts on child protection and the proclamation of the Trafficking in Persons Act. However, it was concerned about discrimination against persons with disabilities, the poor treatment of suspects and prisoners at the time of arrest and in custody and the legitimacy of child marriages.

64. Argentina commended the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and encouraged Trinidad and Tobago to accede to the international human rights treaties to which it was not yet a party. Argentina also took note of the State's efforts to combat gender violence and discrimination suffered by women and girls.

65. Australia commended the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2015. However, persons with disabilities continued to face

discrimination. Australia also remained concerned that violence and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons had not been addressed through legislative and policy instruments.

66. The Bahamas noted that Trinidad and Tobago had become the first Commonwealth Caribbean State to submit a mid-term progress report for the universal periodic review and commended the inclusive multi-stakeholder consultations that had formed part of the process of drafting the State's report. The Bahamas commended efforts to strengthen the legal framework to protect children and the State's gender equality initiatives, including the development of tools for gender-sensitive budgeting and training programmes designed to challenge gender stereotypes.

67. Barbados noted the adoption in 2013 of legislation on human trafficking and the establishment of national agencies to combat that global issue; the adoption of the Children Act, 2012, which had established a juvenile justice system; the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; the decriminalization of defamation; and the national policy on refugees and asylum seekers.

68. Botswana applauded the proclamation of a number of laws, including the Trafficking in Persons Act and the Children Act, and welcomed the improved access to justice and the introduction of electronic monitoring to relieve prison overcrowding. However, there had been reports of abuses carried out by law enforcement officials, including corruption, and reports of inequalities faced by women in all sectors of the economy.

69. Canada was encouraged by the commitment shown by Trinidad and Tobago to amending the Police Complaints Authority Act, in order to give that body more powers to effectively investigate cases of serious misconduct, corruption and criminal offences involving police officials. Canada encouraged the swift consideration by Parliament of new provisions, as well as law enforcement training and public education initiatives, to ensure effective implementation.

70. Chile welcomed the entry into force of the Trafficking in Persons Act, the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the establishment of the national policy on refugees and asylum seekers. However, there were concerns about the State's retention of the death penalty in its legislation, discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, violence against women and children and the early marriage of girls.

71. China appreciated the State's efforts to strengthen its national human rights institution, provide human rights education, combat human trafficking and domestic violence in order to protect women, children and persons with disabilities and introduce measures to improve prison conditions. China also welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the establishment of a national committee to fight trafficking in persons and the State's active cooperation with OHCHR and United Nations treaty bodies and special procedure mandate holders.

72. Colombia welcomed the adoption of the national policy on refugees and asylum seekers and the establishment of the Joint Select Committee on Human Rights. Diversity, the Environment and Sustainable Development.

73. Cuba drew attention to the announcement made by Trinidad and Tobago in 2015 on its attainment of universal early childhood care and education. Cuba also highlighted the establishment of a drug treatment court, which provided an alternative to imprisonment for drug offenders, in order to break the cycle of abuse, multiple arrests and recidivism.

74. Denmark commended Trinidad and Tobago for ratifying several of the core United Nations human rights conventions and on submitting its latest report to the Committee on

the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in 2015. However, Denmark regretted that the State had yet to ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and hoped that Trinidad and Tobago would become one of the 159 States parties to that Convention.

75. Ecuador acknowledged the enactment of the Children Act, which covered issues such as sexual abuse, cruelty, juvenile justice, corporal punishment, mandatory school age, evidence and proceedings in criminal cases and child labour. Ecuador also commended the amendments to the Regional Health Authorities Act, the construction of new medical facilities and the adoption of a new regulation on emergency medical staff and services.

76. France welcomed the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago and made recommendations.

77. Georgia commended the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the adoption of the comprehensive Trafficking in Persons Act and Children Act. Georgia welcomed the submission of a mid-term implementation report on the recommendations accepted during the previous universal periodic review, and encouraged Trinidad and Tobago to continue that practice.

78. Germany welcomed the fact that no executions had been carried out since 1999, but noted with concern that there appeared to be continued support for retaining the death penalty. Germany remained worried that provisions criminalizing and discriminating against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons were still in effect. Germany indicated that more action was needed to safeguard children against sexual and other physical abuse.

79. The head of the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago thanked States for their comments and recommendations. The delegation stressed that Trinidad and Tobago had been implementing measures to meet the obligations arising from its national laws and from international human rights mechanisms.

80. Reference was made to previous responses on the subject of police mistreatment, prison conditions, gender equality, the death penalty, early marriage, vulnerable groups, such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, the ratification of the Convention against Torture and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

81. The delegation welcomed the willingness of countries such as Denmark to speak about exchanging best practices, noting that it was one of the purposes of the peer review for all States.

82. Ghana commended Trinidad and Tobago for the progress achieved since its previous review in 2011, including the enactment of the Trafficking in Persons Act.

83. Guatemala acknowledged the progress that Trinidad and Tobago had achieved on the basis of the voluntary commitments made during the universal periodic review process, as well as its work on combating corruption, promoting the rights of the child and gender equality, eliminating all forms of discrimination and ensuring citizens' security.

84. Honduras commended the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the approval of the national policy on refugees and asylum seekers and the establishment of the Joint Select Committee on Human Rights, Diversity, the Environment and Sustainable Development.

85. Indonesia welcomed the entry into force of the Trafficking in Persons Act, the revision of the Children Act and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Indonesia commended the juvenile justice reforms designed to promote rehabilitative and restorative justice and the amendments to the Miscellaneous Provisions

(Prisons) Act to improve living conditions in prisons and detention centres. Indonesia also welcomed the review of the draft immigration policy.

86. Italy noted positively the measures aimed at providing better protection for children and combating trafficking in persons. It also welcomed the State's commitment to promoting economic, social and cultural rights and, in particular, the results achieved with regard to the right to education.

87. Jamaica noted the multi-stakeholder review of the draft immigration policy carried out by Trinidad and Tobago and was confident that the review, guided by the best interests of the people, would take into account regional and international commitments and best practices.

88. Kenya noted that the State's engagement with the Human Rights Council and the steps it had taken at the national level had enabled the country to make valuable contributions to the work of the Council and implement core human rights treaties and protect human rights, despite the challenges and constraints involved.

89. Malaysia noted that action had been taken to curb crime and violence and to improve the efficiency of the administration of justice, in order to ensure the prompt consideration of court cases. Although significant progress had been made, Malaysia was of the view that there was room for improvement in several areas.

90. Maldives welcomed the introduction of the Children Act, 2012, to protect children against sexual abuse, and the enactment of the Administration of Justice Act, 2012. The Maldives noted the baby care assistance initiative, which provided financial assistance for any child born to underprivileged parents during the course of the fiscal year.

91. Mexico encouraged Trinidad and Tobago to harmonize its national regulatory framework with the standards contained in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Mexico welcomed the legislative and policy measures taken to strengthen the child protection system and urged the Government to establish mechanisms to monitor and ensure their effective implementation, in order to safeguard the safety of minors.

92. Mongolia noted that violence against women and human trafficking remained issues of concern in Trinidad and Tobago, and noted the State's efforts to combat such criminal activity through the proclamation in 2013 of the Trafficking in Persons Act, 2011.

93. Montenegro noted concerns expressed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and asked Trinidad and Tobago to elaborate on its possible intention to amend the Equal Opportunity Act, 2000, to afford protection to individuals on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity and to indicate whether a definition of discrimination against women had been incorporated into the draft national policy.

94. Morocco welcomed the attention paid by the State to: the fight against crime and violence in society; the situation of refugees and asylum seekers; the rights of workers and employers, including the right to work of persons with disabilities; the adoption of national laws protecting children against sexual violence; and measures to facilitate access to affordable housing.

95. Brazil appreciated that Trinidad and Tobago had de facto abolished the death penalty, and encouraged the State to take concrete steps to formally abolish capital and corporal punishment.

96. Costa Rica was concerned about the functioning and effectiveness of the national commission for constitutional reform and reports regarding the prevalence of human trafficking, domestic violence, sexual violence and gender-based violence.

97. Egypt commended: the enactment of the Trafficking in Persons Act; the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the establishment of an interministerial committee to monitor the implementation of the Convention; the enactment of the Children Act; and the initiatives taken by the Ministry of National Security to further ensure the security of the people of Trinidad and Tobago by fighting crime and violence.

98. In conclusion, the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago thanked all delegations for their contributions to the interactive dialogue. The State mentioned the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the process of drafting legislation to give legal effect to the provisions of the Convention at the national level.

99. Regarding the Paris Principles, Trinidad and Tobago indicated that a workshop had taken place in consultation with the Commonwealth Secretariat.

100. The delegation appreciated the positive comments made on the Trafficking in Persons Act and the efforts undertaken in that field.

101. The delegation referred to the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the need for consultation with the Government on that issue. The issue of cooperation and multilateralism within the framework of the human rights treaties was raised, in reference to a comment made by Jamaica.

102. The delegation informed Costa Rica that Trinidad and Tobago had ratified the Arms Trade Treaty at an early stage, and was currently in the process of finalizing its implementation. By ratifying the Arms Trade Treaty, the State had also committed to tackling gender-based violence, because the Treaty addressed that issue in relation to the transfer of arms.

103. The delegation spoke about inclusiveness and noted that the State's report had been drafted in a transparent manner, involving dialogue among various ministries and with other agencies and civil society.

104. In Trinidad and Tobago, the issue of human rights and how to safeguard and protect them concerned everybody. Nevertheless, the Government had the right to set the legislative agenda to ensure that laws were passed and that administrative mechanisms were in place to safeguard the human rights of all citizens, taking into account the increasing role of civil society.

105. Trinidad and Tobago commended all the delegations that had contributed to the interactive dialogue and highlighted its ongoing efforts to give effect to section 4 of the Constitution and the bill of rights of Trinidad and Tobago.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

106. **The recommendations listed below enjoy the support of Trinidad and Tobago:**

106.1 **Maintain the tempo to reform the constitution and conclude this important reform as it will consolidate and enhance the legal framework for protection and promotion of human rights (Kenya);**

106.2 **Continue efforts to harmonize national legislation with international human rights norms (Morocco);**

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

106.3 **Develop and implement a National Action Plan for Human Rights to further ensure systematic and comprehensive approach for the promotion and protection of human rights, with the full engagement of civil society (Indonesia);**

106.4 **Foster a better understanding of the needs of young people and establish guidelines for their development (Cuba);**

106.5 **Develop and implement a national awareness raising campaign on human rights (Maldives);**

106.6 **Continue to develop training programmes in the field of human rights for law enforcement officials (Egypt);**

106.7 **Submit overdue reports to the relevant treaty bodies (Sierra Leone);**

106.8 **Take steps to submit overdue reports to treaty bodies (Ghana);**

106.9 **Avail itself of technical assistance from OHCHR towards implementation of its obligations under international laws and treaties (Maldives);**

106.10 **Continue legislative review and reform to address any instances of discrimination against women in national law (Bahamas);**

106.11 **Continue to promote the rights of vulnerable groups, especially women, children and persons with disabilities (Senegal);**

106.12 **Continue its significant efforts to promote gender equality, in particular the implementation of the Draft National Gender Policy as well as the proper enforcement of the existing legal frameworks (Norway);**

106.13 **Continue to promote women's empowerment (Pakistan);**

106.14 **Develop more equitable strategies to achieve gender equality on the basis of the assessment or examination of the different needs, constraints, opportunities and priorities of men and women (Cuba);**

106.15 **Implement gender equality by establishing same wages for same jobs for men and women (Algeria);**

106.16 **Continue efforts to eliminate discrimination against women to allow for equal access to the labour market (Morocco);**

106.17 **Increase its collaboration with regional and hemispheric partners to address high levels of violence and organised crime (Jamaica);**

106.18 **Establish an authority that will investigate and recommend action against abuses by law enforcers as a way to curb corruption, violations and protect the integrity of the security forces (Botswana);**

106.19 **Enact comprehensive prison and related judicial reform to ensure that conditions of detention are in conformity with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, including but not limited to: addressing overcrowding and sanitary issues in prisons; providing sufficient resources for rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners; and relieving the judicial backlog that has contributed to the detention of over 2,000 people in remand awaiting a trial, many who have been in custody for several years (Canada);**

106.20 **Take all necessary measures to solve the problem of prison overcrowding and to improve detention conditions, including by providing**

sufficient resources to the body responsible for investigating allegations of torture and ill-treatment and ensuring its independence (France);

106.21 **Strengthen plans and policies to eradicate violence against women (Paraguay);**

106.22 **Prioritise measures to significantly reduce gender-based violence including violence against women and girls (Jamaica);**

106.23 **Establish appropriate coordination mechanisms that can ensure an effective multisectoral response to cases of sexual and domestic violence (Guatemala);**

106.24 **Take steps to strengthen policies aimed at addressing gender-based violence, domestic violence, sexual harassment, rape and child sexual abuse (Ghana);**

106.25 **Pursue efforts to strengthen legislation and public policies aimed at eradicating violence against women (Ecuador);**

106.26 **Establish an adequate mechanism to ensure an effective response to sexual and domestic violence (Turkey);**

106.27 **Develop a coordinated, inter-agency approach for responding to gender-based violence, with support from international partners, as required (Bahamas);**

106.28 **Approve the national gender policy and put it into practice in order to guarantee, inter alia, the effective implementation of the Domestic Violence Act, the establishment of appropriate and effective coordination mechanisms to ensure effective multisectoral response to sexual and domestic violence and sexual harassment in the workplace and in public life, as well as the explicit prohibition of discrimination against women (Honduras);**

106.29 **Ensure adequate follow up to the review of the Domestic Violence Act conducted in 2014-2015 in order to strengthen measures to prevent and combat all forms of discrimination and violence against women, and consider adopting a national action plan to this end (Italy);**

106.30 **Strengthen the response to various forms of violence against woman and take appropriate measures in order to ensure gender equality in the labor market (Egypt);**

106.31 **Continue its efforts in the fight against violence and discrimination against women, and ensure the effective implementation of existing legislation, particularly legislation on the minimum legal age of marriage (France);**

106.32 **Strengthen efforts to prevent and eradicate forced marriage of children and adolescents (Chile);**

106.33 **Partner with existing independent human rights organizations to monitor and evaluate government interventions that combat domestic violence (United States of America);**

106.34 **Fully implement the Domestic Violence Act and develop a comprehensive policy to raise awareness of and prevent domestic violence (Germany);**

106.35 **Develop statistics and indicators on gender-based violence in order to design and implement public policies in an effective manner (Mexico);**

106.36 **Ensure that rape is diligently prosecuted as a grievous sexual assault (Slovenia);**

106.37 **Enact laws and policies to combat the problem of sexual harassment in the workplace and in public life (Guatemala);**

106.38 **Put in place a system to support victims of sexual and gender-based violence (Spain);**

106.39 **Strengthen and expand policies, protections and programs addressing gender-based violence and sexual exploitation of children, provide targeted training to law enforcement, and ensure survivors are protected and have access to medical and legal services (Canada);**

106.40 **Take immediate and long term actions to eliminate discrimination and violence against women, narrow the gender gap in economic and social settings, and undertake public campaigns against gender-based violence (Malaysia);**

106.41 **Ensure proper investigation of child abuse (Germany);**

106.42 **Introduce more rigorous anti-trafficking laws to better protect women and girls (Sierra Leone);**

106.43 **Provide adequate funding and human resources for its anti-human trafficking programs (Philippines);**

106.44 **Strengthen existing policies to combat human trafficking (Spain);**

106.45 **Improve efforts to address human trafficking by strengthening procedures for identifying victims of trafficking (Turkey);**

106.46 **Continue to take steps to strengthen the protection for and assistance to victims, and to prosecute perpetrators, by ensuring the full implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Act (Singapore);**

106.47 **Ensure that victims of trafficking are provided with the opportunity to seek asylum and enjoy the corresponding rights and services, to strengthen the effort to protect and assist victims of trafficking (Uganda);**

106.48 **Continue efforts to strengthen the system for combatting trafficking in persons and establish a response mechanism to provide assistance to victims of this crime (Mexico);**

106.49 **Continue to strengthen national efforts to address the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings (Egypt);**

106.50 **Provide increased support to the family as the dominant and only natural environment suitable for raising children, to ensure adequate protection (Uganda);**

106.51 **Step up efforts to facilitate the participation of women in political and public affairs and to combat stereotypes regarding the role of women (Argentina);**

106.52 **Continue the efforts to reduce the unemployment rate, eradicate poverty, and give priority to the protection and promotion of economic, social and cultural rights of people (China);**

106.53 **Adopt a human rights based approach in the engagement with youth, and increase the resources for youth development in urban and rural areas, including by improving the access to and quality of education (Malaysia);**

106.54 **Continue progressing towards the eradication of poverty, through implementing its successful social policies (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

106.55 **Strengthen measures on rural development (South Africa);**

106.56 **Continue national efforts to address the prevalence of HIV and AIDS (South Africa);**

106.57 **Ensure the right to health of persons living with HIV/AIDS, through the strengthening of inter-institutional coordination, the establishment of programs to make available essential medicines, as well as strategies to address the increased rate of infection by HIV and new infections among adolescents and young women (Colombia);**

106.58 **Build state capacity to develop policy and programmatic responses to address the needs of people living with HIV (Norway);**

106.59 **Implement the updated National Policy on Persons with Disabilities (Maldives);**

106.60 **Review and revise domestic legislation and policies to reflect the provisions and principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Australia);**

106.61 **Accelerate efforts to incorporate the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into national law (Bahamas);**

106.62 **Develop policy and legislation to promote, protect and fulfil the rights of persons with disabilities (South Africa);**

106.63 **Develop policy and legislation in the area of protection of the rights of persons with disabilities (Georgia);**

106.64 **Continue to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Pakistan);**

106.65 **Take all necessary legislative and policy measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have appropriate employment opportunities and children with disabilities have access to quality education (Singapore);**

106.66 **Take steps to review domestic legislation and policies to reflect the provision and principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and fully implement the updated National Policy of Persons with Disabilities (Ghana);**

106.67 **Implement the legislation and policies to address all forms of discrimination and disability (Kenya);**

106.68 **Elevate the socioeconomic situation for persons with disabilities (Malaysia);**

106.69 **Develop public policies aimed at guaranteeing the rights of persons with disabilities, mainly in education, professional development and participation in social life on an equal footing (Mexico);**

106.70 **Effect the National Policy on refugee and Asylum Seekers matters the Cabinet approved in 2014 (Kenya).**

107. **Trinidad and Tobago considers that the following recommendation is already implemented:**

107.1 **Ratify and apply the Arms Trade Treaty (Costa Rica).**

108. The following recommendations will be examined by Trinidad and Tobago, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-third session of the Human Rights Council, in September 2016:

108.1 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Italy);

108.2 Accede to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol, and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Honduras);

108.3 Consider its accession to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Indonesia);

108.4 Ratify Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Turkey) (Denmark) (France) (Ghana);

108.5 Continue expanding the legal framework for the promotion and protection of human rights through the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance as well as to consider taking steps towards the abolishment of death penalty (Mongolia);

108.6 Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol (Italy) (Paraguay) (Uruguay);

108.7 Ratify and accede to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Sierra Leone);

108.8 Progress towards the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);

108.9 Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol; the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict; the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; as well as the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Guatemala);

108.10 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment for the establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism (Panama);

108.11 Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol, as well as the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);

108.12 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (Costa Rica);

108.13 Sign the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, as well as the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Spain);

108.14 Consider, to the extent possible, acceding to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Nicaragua);

108.15 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (Switzerland);

108.16 Ratify the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Uruguay);

108.17 Take all necessary measures to combat violence against children and ratify the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (France);

108.18 Consider acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families (Ecuador);

108.19 Consider its accession to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia);

108.20 Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Philippines);

108.21 Ratify the International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Algeria) (Ghana);

108.22 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance without making reservations and recognize the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances to receive and consider communications (Panama);

108.23 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France) (Ghana);

108.24 Consider re-acceding to the American Convention on Human Rights and accepting the contentions jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (Brazil);

108.25 Enact the bill on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which lapsed in Parliament (Nigeria);

108.26 Consider establishing a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) in accordance with the Paris Principles (Republic of Korea);

108.27 Establish promptly a NHRI in full compliance with the Paris Principles (A Status) (Portugal);

108.28 Establish NHRI in accordance with the Paris Principles (Senegal);

108.29 Establish an independent human rights institution that conforms with the Paris Principles (Australia);

108.30 Set up a NHRI in accordance with the Paris Principles (Sierra Leone);

108.31 Establish a NHRI under the Paris Principles to undertake and oversee the further advancement of the human rights agenda (Barbados);

108.32 Take appropriate measures in the legislative sphere, including allocations of financial resources with a view to strengthening the office of the Ombudsman and bring it in line with the Paris Principles (Honduras);

108.33 Extend a standing invitation to the Council's Special Procedures (Portugal) (Republic of Korea) (Georgia);

108.34 Take steps to issue standing invitations to all special procedures (Ghana);

108.35 Strengthen the cooperation with human rights mechanisms and extend a standing invitation to the special procedures (Turkey);

108.36 Take into account the recommendations of the National Commission for Equal Opportunities concerning the need to amend the Equal Opportunities legislation so that it covers the elderly, persons living with HIV and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation (Colombia);

108.37 Put into effect first cycle recommendations 87.23 and 88.50, and develop policy and programmatic responses to the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons (United States of America);

108.38 Amend the Equal Opportunity Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity as prohibited grounds for discrimination, as part of a proactive strategy to promote respect for the dignity and rights of all individuals (Canada);

108.39 Adopt legislation prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, introducing also awareness-raising programs that promote respect for sexual diversity (Chile);

108.40 Enact legislation prohibiting discrimination against LGBTI persons, including removing laws criminalising same sex activity (Australia);

108.41 Repeal articles 13 and 16 of the Law on Sexual Offences of 1986, penalizing sexual relations between consenting individuals of the same sex. Despite the fact that laws criminalizing same sex activity are not enforced, a formal withdrawal of the law is highly recommended (Netherlands);

108.42 Take steps to combat discrimination of LGBTI people in legislation and practice, including decriminalisation of sexual activities between consenting adults of the same sex (Norway);

108.43 Decriminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex (Slovenia) (Spain);

108.44 Take additional measures as necessary to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights by vulnerable groups that are suffering from discrimination, such as LGBTI persons, including investigation and punishment of cases of discrimination and repealing of laws that criminalize and stigmatize them (Argentina);

108.45 Put an end to discrimination (particularly legal discrimination) against LGBT persons and to criminalization of homosexuality (France);

108.46 Repeal all provisions that criminalize consensual same-sex relationships or that discriminate against LGBTI persons (Germany);

108.47 Decriminalize homosexuality and combat all forms of discrimination and abuse against LGBTI persons (Italy);

108.48 Decriminalize same sex relations including in the Sexual Offences Act (Montenegro);

108.49 Take concrete measures with a view to decriminalizing consensual same-sex relations and abolishing any discriminatory legislation against LGBTI people, even if it is not applied in practice (Brazil);

108.50 Review the Children Act of 2012 in order to decriminalize consensual sexual relations between minors of the same sex (Chile);

108.51 Adopt a three-tiered classification of murder that will provide sentencing judges with the discretion to impose a sentence other than death and thereby preclude its mandatory imposition (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

108.52 Partner with appropriate international agencies to strengthen national capacities to collect, process, and analyse relevant human rights statistical information concerning police misconduct and prison conditions (United States of America);

108.53 Set the universal minimum age for marriage to 18 years, in line with the Civil Marriage Law (Norway);

108.54 Harmonize the minimum age for marriage, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Paraguay);

108.55 Harmonize all its relevant legislation relating to the age of marriage and raise the age of marriage to 18 (Sierra Leone);

108.56 Raise the age of marriage to 18 for both boys and girls (Slovenia);

108.57 Raise the minimum age of marriage in the national legislation to align it with the definition of a child in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Algeria);

108.58 Abolish child marriage by having a minimum age of marriage at 18 (Botswana);

108.59 Repeal the legislation that exempts spouses of minors from prosecution for sexual offences against their spouse (Norway);

108.60 Repeal the right of parents to use corporal punishment (Slovenia);

108.61 Prohibit corporal punishment of children at home and in schools (Honduras);

108.62 Take steps to decriminalise defamation (Ghana);

108.63 Design and implement the National Plan on Business and Human Rights in line with the United Nations Guiding Principles on the matter (Colombia);

108.64 Ensure comprehensive sexuality education, with a view to preventing teen pregnancies and the spread of sexually transmitted infections, in particular HIV (Slovenia);

108.65 Speed up the review of the draft Immigration policy (Nigeria);

108.66 **Take measures to enact relevant regulatory legislation to provide adequate attention to the migrant population and their human rights (Mexico);**

108.67 **Adopt national legislation that grants legal effect to the protection of refugees and the respect for the principle of non-refoulement in accordance with the relevant international instruments (Uruguay).**

109. **The recommendations below did not enjoy the support of Trinidad and Tobago**

109.1 **Withdraw the reservation to the first Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and ratify, without reservations, the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Panama);**

109.2 **Accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Chile);**

109.3 **Abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty(Uruguay);**

109.4 **Establish an official moratorium on executions and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, so as to bring the legislation into conformity with the de facto situation (Netherlands);**

109.5 **Establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, with a view to abolishing death penalty both in practice and in law (Portugal);**

109.6 **Establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Australia);**

109.7 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Montenegro);**

109.8 **Abolish by law the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (France);**

109.9 **Take measures aimed at abolishing the death penalty (Paraguay);**

109.10 **Repeal the death penalty, as previously recommended (Canada);**

109.11 **Abolish the death penalty (Norway) (Honduras);**

109.12 **Consider taking steps towards the abolishment of death penalty (Mongolia);**

109.13 **Consider taking all necessary steps to introduce a de jure moratorium of capital executions with a view to fully abolish the death penalty (Italy);**

109.14 **Encourage an informed debate among the population on the topic of the death penalty and promote its de jure abolition (Switzerland);**

109.15 Initiate a national discourse about the death penalty and establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty as called for by the General Assembly resolution 69/186 (Germany);

109.16 Establish an official moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to its full abolition (Slovenia);

109.17 Establish a de jure moratorium on the death penalty that could ultimately lead to its suppression from legislation (Spain);

109.18 Continue with the steps already taken on the right to life, liberty and security of the person and in particular to continue the moratorium on the death penalty and work towards eliminating it (Kenya);

109.19 Abolish the death penalty and declare an official moratorium on all executions as a well as repeal all provisions of national legislation that may provide for the death penalty (Costa Rica).

110. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

Composition of tne delegation

The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago was headed by H.E. Eden Charles, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Chargé d'Affaires a.i. and Deputy Permanent Representative Permanent Mission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations, New York and composed of the following members:

- Mrs Anesa Ali-Rodriguez, Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., Permanent Mission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations, Geneva
- Ms. Mariella Fonrose, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations, Geneva
- Mr. Ian Rampersad, Director, International Law and Human Rights Unit, Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs.